

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

At the outset, Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of Claims 25-28 and 30-33, and Examiner Nguyen's willingness to discuss the present application with Applicants' representative in a personal interview, which was conducted on December 23, 2003.

Claims 16-33 are currently pending. Claims 16 and 25-28 are amended by the foregoing amendment. Amended Claims 16 and 25-28 are supported by the specification as originally filed, including the originally-filed claims and Figures 24-26. No new subject matter is introduced by these changes.

In the Office Action, Claims 16-20 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter.

In response to this rejection, independent Claim 16 is amended per the suggestion of Examiner Nguyen during the personal interview. Specifically, amended Claim 16 recites "control information used to access the contents data to reproduce at least a portion of the still picture data with a reproducing apparatus." As indicated by Examiner Nguyen during the personal interview, this clarification overcomes the non-statutory subject matter rejection of Claim 16. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 16, and its dependent claims, under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

Independent Claims 25-28 are amended by the foregoing amendment to clarify preamble language and to address antecedent basis issues. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 25-28 and their dependant claims remain allowable over the art of record.

If the Examiner believes any formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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